

CASE: ALBUQUERQUE
INTERNATIONAL SUNPORT
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Doing more with less.

“The KONE Modernization products... offer Dual Drive energy efficient motors and sleep mode capacity which allows for a reduction in operational costs estimated at 20 to 25 percent.”

*Joseph Rodriguez, Aviation Facilities Manager –
Albuquerque International Sunport*

The Challenge

Four escalators provide the main access between floors at the main terminal of the Albuquerque International Sunport, which serves 7 to 8 million passengers each year. KONE was asked to replace all four escalators with more durable equipment in a safe, cost effective and environmentally beneficial manner while minimizing interference with passenger traffic during installation.

The KONE Solution

KONE replaced the International Sunport's existing escalators with four KONE EcoMod™ escalators specially designed to fit within the existing trusses. This allowed continuous operation of at least two units, quick and cost-effective replacement and minimal construction debris. Additionally, the system's dual drives ensure less wear to extend the system's lifetime.

Fast Facts

Albuquerque
International Sunport
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Owners: City of Albuquerque
Market Segment: Airport
Timeline: July 2009 -
November 2009

Project Solution:
Four KONE EcoMod™
Escalators

ALBUQUERQUE

ACTIVE
LOADING OR
UNLOADING
ONLY
VEHICLES
WILL BE CITED
& FINED AT
THEIR OWNERS RISK

DELTA

DELTA

As Easy As...
Baggage
Carts

Connecting people, not just terminals

The Client's Situation

The Albuquerque International Sunport (ABQ) is no different from other airports across the country in that its doors are open all day, every day. While there is a stairway and a small elevator, the four escalators between the ticketing and concourse/TSA checkpoint levels of the International Sunport transport the vast majority of people between the two levels. Closing them down while they were being replaced was simply not an option.

"Concurrent operation of side by side escalators during modernization initially proved to be a challenge," said Joseph Rodriguez, Aviation Facilities Manager at Albuquerque International Sunport.

The KONE Achievement

With the EcoMod™ system, KONE was able to leave the trusses in place, which allowed for the work to be done in tighter work spaces. It also allowed for two escalators to be updated simultaneously, leaving one up and one down escalator running throughout the replacement process. This vastly improved passenger flow, something competitive alternatives could not offer.

From an aesthetic point of view, the reuse of the trusses meant it wasn't necessary to turn the entire escalator area into a construction zone. Keeping the trusses in place addressed an important safety issue as well. The International Sunport structure, as previously built, was unable to carry the excessive combined weight of a truss and the equipment needed to remove each one in a full replacement situation. "Reutilization of the existing trusses...was a major selling point because it prevented intrusion into the aging infrastructure," said Rodriguez.

"EcoDrive™...utilizes a set of planetary gears that are 96 percent efficient to help reduce energy consumption."

Kevin Wigley, Regional Escalator Modernization Sales Manager – KONE



Foreman Danny Richardson and his crew lower the upper EcoMod™ Module into the truss

"While the replacement process was extremely critical for this busy, occupied building project, it was also very important to this customer to receive a proven, durable product that would hold up well to their heavy building demands," explains Kevin Wigley, Regional Escalator Modernization Sales Manager for KONE. "They were able to get feedback from other International Sunport customers that had already been through the EcoMod™ replacement process and were enjoying the higher performance of their new escalators in a facility that has similar demands."

One of those demands was durability: the client wanted a system that would run smoothly for years. The dual drive motors utilized for this project minimize the impact on each motor to create a more durable escalator with an expanded life span. Additionally, the equipment was installed with the capability to upgrade to a standby mode that will slow the movement of the escalators when not in use, thus saving energy.

The KONE EcoMod™ system also addressed a number of maintenance issues. With a long daily International Sunport operating schedule, it is important that the downtime required for escalator maintenance is minimized. Typical escalators require lubricated chains to operate and these chains attract dust and debris, requiring frequent shut-downs for cleaning. The EcoMod™ uses a lube-free chain which significantly extends the maintenance timetable between cleanings.

The Bottom Line

Because the KONE EcoMod™ full replacement method is less invasive than a full tear-out of the existing escalators, KONE reduced the amount of time and money Albuquerque International Sunport Airport needed to replace its aging escalators. International Sunport safety and security was maintained while passengers experienced minimal disruption during construction. The EcoMod™ system also delivers greater reliability in addition to a smoother and quieter ride.

In fact, the EcoMod™ installation went so well, KONE won the bid for Phase 2 of the project: replacement of the four escalators between the ticketing and baggage claim levels. These units will also include the standby operation feature to conserve power.

U.S. Operations Center
One KONE Court
Moline, Illinois 61265
1-800-956-KONE (5663)

KONE Mexico, S.A. de C.V.
Clavel 227
Colonia Atl
Mexico City, D.F. 06450
+52.55.1946.0100

Canadian Operations Center
6696 Financial Drive, Unit 2
Mississauga, Ontario, L5N 7J6
1-905-858-8383

For the latest in product information and interactive design tools, visit us at www.kone.com.

KONE Inc. reserves the right to alter design and specifications without prior notice. KONE is a registered trademark of KONE Inc.

Dedicated to People Flow™, EcoMod™ and EcoDrive™ are trademarks of KONE Inc.

